

Along the Indian frontier, his officers refused to march farther east, and, after his return to Babylonia, his Macedonian troops maintained against the integration of Asian troops into the ranks. The third episode was the horrible loss of personnel in the MACKRAU desert on the return march from the Indies to the Persian Gulf, where lack of water and food accomplished what no enemy army had been able to do.

356-323 BC

ALEXANDER the Great

Cavalry Commander at age 18, King at 20, conqueror of the Persian Empire at 26, explorer of the Indian frontier at 30,

Alexander died before his 33rd birthday

Alexander's defeat of the Persian Empire removed the blow that had prevented the spread of Greek settlements into the East.

Greek culture penetrated into western Asia as a result of his conquests and western

Asia became for the first time a part of the Greek world.

He improved the fine army inherited from his father Philip, by the addition of allied forces; he strengthened the cavalry arm, utilized weapons specialists & employed a corps of engineers. He was invincible in both siege warfare and set battles. His movements were marked by speed; his logistical, intelligence & communications operations were flawless and his ability to improvise was unrivaled. Yet he was careful in strategy: rather than strike deep into Asia immediately, he spent nearly 2 yrs securing the coastal areas of Asia Minor and the Levant in order to ensure that Persian naval forces would not interrupt his line in Europe. Bit by bit, he won away the western sections of the Persian Empire before driving into Mesopotamia & the Iranian plateau.

Only 3 setbacks checked his progress.

356-323BC

Alexander the Great

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The ruler, who is arguably the most famous secular figure in history was little admired in his own lifetime. He was an inspiring leader and personally a very brave soldier. He was ruthless toward those who opposed him - even from within his own ranks - but fair & honest toward those who exhibited courage & skill. He was widely despised by many of the subject

books

In the end, his achievement appears to have been a grand adventure tried to his own personal ambitions - conquest for its own sake.